Paul Wurtzel

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Dear Harold;

I have held off writing you until now as my appointment with Wakeford-Orloff was postponed till today. I talked to Gary Horowitz. He told me about Lifton; appartently he was to do all the research on King for the ~~Rxxxxxxx~~ Producer, Ed Lewis and the writer, Abby Mann(he wrote the script for Judgement at Nuremburg). G.H. said that Lifton ahd read your book and did his work at the U.C.L.A. library mostly from newspaper stories, mainly the N.Y. Times. After he completed his work he wanted to keep the literary rights to his research and only give them the movie rights. They got lawyers to bring suit. At the same time the lawyers felt that the hearing for a trial for Ray might change things if they started to shoot and a decision for a trial came down. This could be disastarous if it happened in the middle of production and entailed rewriting etc. At this point the backers pulled out and the project fell apart. They dropped any action against Lifton. He said he was interested and would see if he could get renewed interest from his people. I found out that Wakeford-O actually produces commercials. I guess if Horowitz comes up ~~with~~ something he has a working arrangement with Ed Lewis ~~and they just service to the production end, (with crews etc.)~~ would want W.O. and are able to produce get financing. I think "Exec. Action" was backed by Avco Embassy. I am not positive. It was distributed by National General. He said he would contact me next week. Last Friday I talked with Albert Maltz on the phone. He was very interested in the subject but as I outlined the subject he felt that he wouldn't want to get involved because of the time and research and what he felt would be a painstakeing project. A large concern was the FBI and the power they have(as he knows from his past problems). He brought up the point that if something new came up concerning a new trial or other things that it could cause problems if production was in progress. He felt it would be like Don Quixote

W.O. does the physical end of servicing a production - apparently it is just a name.

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tilting windmills, to use his metaphor. He wasn't against the idea except for himself at this stage of his life. He gave me the names of three other writers that he felt might be good for it if they had an interest AND the possibility of it being released. That was another point. That of the Bureau leaning on distributors and exhibitors once it was finished and if it exposed the FBI. Gary Horowitz did not have the same impression and felt it could be distributed as they will do anything to make money. He felt that there is a lot of paranoia around that isn't justified. I do not go along with him and feel he is not really in touch with what isgoing on. He keeps referring how nothing stopped "Exec. Action" from being released. I have not seen it but it is not the samething and they admitted in the movie, according to him,)that most of it was a fiction that could have happened the way they portrayed it. The strongest they got was to say that the Bureau was incompentent in their investigation, and that the Warren report was a lot of crap. Maltz was very nice and spent a good deal of time on the phone. I told him about the work you did on the "10" committee and of all the research you turned over to one of them and that you never got it back. He said he would sure lik e to know the dates that this took place because his group investigated the committe but could not come up with enough. I have another very strong possibility and will not mention the name, but this person has done outstanding work on this type of subject and he comes from an extremely wealth family and goes into the face of this type of thing. He is now out of the country but should be back shortly.

I am encloseing the Writers Guild regitration and a xerox copy of 'Lydia', also copies of 2 New Republic articles and a page from New Scientist that I find provoative------- Hope Lil and you are in good shape and getting the planting done. I really enjoyed meeting the both of you and would like to have spent more time. I got back and have just gone back to work on the same show I was on "Barnaby Jones." I really didn't want to but it helps the bank roll and in that way it can help what you and(I in a small way) are trying to accomplish. Give my best to Jim and again to Lil a lovely person.

As always,

Paul